Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 21 Oct 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 22 Oct 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 20 Oct 2023 at 15:27 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Saturday. High for a less windy and drier day on Sunday, but low for extent of any showery rain. Low for extent of any rain on Monday.

Headline for Saturday 21 Oct 2023: Cold and very windy with rain and snow

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 21 Oct 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
Medium Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
60%	70%	80%	90%	90%	90%	70%	30%

Forecast for Saturday 21 Oct 2023

Weather: A cloudy day with widespread rain, sleet and snow, although some drier spells along the west coast, chiefly around Skye and northern Lochaber. Snow will fall down to 750 metres, with a risk of blizzard like conditions on the higher summits. Snow will increasingly turn to rain at all levels by late afternoon as warmer air arrives from the southeast. Some heavy rain is expected across Easter Ross later on. Turning drier from the southeast through the late evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%, best along the west coast but any breaks here unreliable

Low cloud and visibility: Widely poor in extensive low cloud down to 450 to 700 metres, highest cloud bases along the west coast. Whiteout conditions expected in snow for a time. Low cloud may clear from the northeast of the region after dark.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 21 Oct 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	43/54 E	47/59 E	38/48 E	33/42 NE	31/40 NE	31/40 NE	22/29 NE	18/23 SE	17/22 SE
900	40/51 E	44/55 E	34/44 E	31/40 NE	28/37 NE	28/37 NE	22/29 NE	18/23 SE	17/22 SE
600	30/41 E	36/48 E	25/35 E	22/31 NE	21/30 NE	20/29 NE	15/23 NE	12/17 SE	12/17 SE
300	8/40 E	10/42 E	6/34 E	6/31 NE	6/29 NE	7/29 NE	7/21 NE	4/15 SE	4/14 SE
Glen	19/39 E	23/44 E	13/28 NE	13/27 NE	13/27 NE	14/29 NE	13/24 NE	8/14 NE	6/11 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-1/-11	-2/-11	-2/-11	-1/-10	-0/-9	0/-8	1/-5	2/-3	2/-3
900	-0/-10	-1/-10	-1/-9	-1/-9	0/-7	1/-6	2/-4	3/-2	3/-2
600	2/-6	2/-6	1/-6	1/-5	2/-4	3/-3	4/-1	5/1	5/1
300	4/1	4/-0	3/1	3/0	4/2	5/3	5/3	6/4	6/4
Glen	7/2	6/2	6/3	6/2	7/4	8/4	8/5	9/7	8/7
Freezing Level*	800m	800m	700m	700m	900m	1100m	1700m	1800m	1600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Be prepared for wintertime conditions for a good part of the day with snow, poor visibility and severe wind chill. Very strong winds will lead to a risk of being blown over, and winds across the very highest tops may reach storm force again. Icy surfaces can be expected at height. Burns at lower elevations will be in full spate and access roads may be flooded across the east.

Forecast for Sunday 22 Oct 2023

Weather: A much drier and less windy day with cloud breaking to leave brighter skies by afternoon. Some rain around first thing otherwise mostly dry with just a passing light shower in the afternoon.

Maximum wind: Westerly 20 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70%, best chance in the afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Areas of cloud down to 600 metres at first, this clearing away northeast through the morning to leave very good visibility with only small amounts of cloud above 750 metres by afternoon

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 3 rising to 8 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 5 Celsius
Freezing level: 1200 to 1500 metres

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